

COMMUNIQUE

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2nd Thursday of the month
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia
October 2004 Volume 37 Number 10

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 14th. The program for October is entitled "Staging for Beginners." It will be presented by two of our club members, the very talented and accomplished Sandra and Harry Fletcher. Not only beginners, but all of us will learn a few things!

Plants of the Month: (see the attached write ups)

CACTUS – *Matucana*, *Submatucana*, *Oroya* SUCCULENTS –*Portulacaceae*

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride & joy.

Study Group: Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm. in the Grapevine room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel. These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free giveaways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Join us on Wednesday, October 20th when the topic will be *Astrophytum*.

Personnel Notices:

The SCGCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members Nancy Ash, Thom Burnett, Andrew Cook, and Linda Walpus. Carefully review the **COMMUNIQUE** and the **Roster** in order to learn about all the many benefits of membership in our warm and friendly club!

The Club Winter Cactus Show and Sale:

IMPORTANT NOTICE!! The LA TIMES, in an article featuring the new Superintendent of the Arboretum, erred in announcing the date of our Winter Show as being October 16-17! They have agreed to publish a correction. Please note, and tell all your acquaintances, that

**The Club Winter Cactus Show and Sale will be held
on Saturday, October 9th and Sunday, October 10th.**

Our ELEVENTH ANNUAL WINTER SHOW is just a few days away. Check your September issue of the **COMMUNIQUE** for the show schedule and other details. We will need plenty of helpers on Thursday morning (8:30 am) October 7th to set-up tables, decorate, and get the show and sales areas ready by noon! Show and sale plants can then start coming in on Thursday from noon till 9:00 pm. Remember... all show plants must be in by Friday October 8th at 4:00 pm. Also, clerks and helpers will be needed Friday during judging which begins at 5:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to hear what the judges are saying and to learn more about the show.

Vince Basta, Show Chairman

Refreshments: While Antoninette Koltaj and Ralph Massey have volunteered to bring in refreshments this month, more are always welcome! We continue to seek volunteers for coming months, so don't forget to sign up on the sheet located at the refreshment table. Our thanks go to those few who brought things for the September meeting.

10 years ago: The program was a members' night, entitled Collectors and their Collections, with slides from many members. The first Winter Show was held at the Huntington Botanical Garden.

20 years ago: Jim Dice gave a program. New Members included John Trager.

30 years ago: Mildred Titmus presented an interesting report on South Africa.

(Thanks go to Tom Glavich for providing this interesting feature)

Online: If you would be content to view the **COMMUNIQUE** on-line and not receive a copy by regular mail, thus saving the Club treasury about one dollar per copy, send the information via E-mail to sgvcss@adelphia.net. <http://www.desertsong.com/sgvcss/> is the Club's web site. If you or someone you know has internet access be sure to have a look. The pages were authored and are maintained by Gunnar Eisel who has done a great job in creating an informative and classy site. You can also download a version of the **COMMUNIQUE** complete with color photos. Look for the **COMMUNIQUE** link at the site's main page.

Calendar of Events – 2004

October 9th-10th SGVC&SS Winter Show. LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.

December 18th The Club Christmas Party! Put this date on your calendar!

September Plant-Of-the-Month Mini Show Results:

Cacti – *Ariocarpus* Succulents – African *Pachypodiums*

Beginner

1 st	Dick Tatman	<i>A. retusus v. furfuraceus</i>	1 st	Alan Hooker	<i>P. bispinosum</i>
	Dick Tatman	<i>A. fissuratus v. fissuratus</i>	2 nd	Alan Hooker	<i>P. succulentum</i>
			3 rd	Alan Hooker	<i>P. saundersii</i>

Intermediate

1 st	Rene Caro	<i>A. fissuratus v. lloydii</i>	1 st	Jean Mullens	<i>P. lealii ssp. saundersii</i>
2 nd	Rene Caro	<i>A. fissuratus</i>			
3 rd	Rene Caro	<i>A. retusus v. furfuraceus</i>			
3 rd	Jean Mullens	<i>A. fissuratus</i>			

Advanced

1 st	Frank Nudge	<i>A. fussuratus x agavoides</i>	1 st	Rita Gerlach	<i>P. namaquanum</i>
2 nd	Tom Vermilion	<i>A. fissuratus</i>			
3 rd	Rita Gerlach	<i>A. fissuratus</i>			

Master

1 st	Vince Basta	<i>A. retusus</i>	1 st	Jim Hanna	<i>P. succulentum</i>
2 nd	Vince Basta	<i>A. scapharuastrus</i>	2 nd	Jim Hanna	<i>P. 'Arid Lands'</i>
3 rd	Karen Ostler	<i>A. retusus</i>	3 rd	Karen Ostler	<i>P. namaquanum</i>
3 rd	Karen Ostler	<i>A. agavoides</i>			

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the info to me at the address below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice.

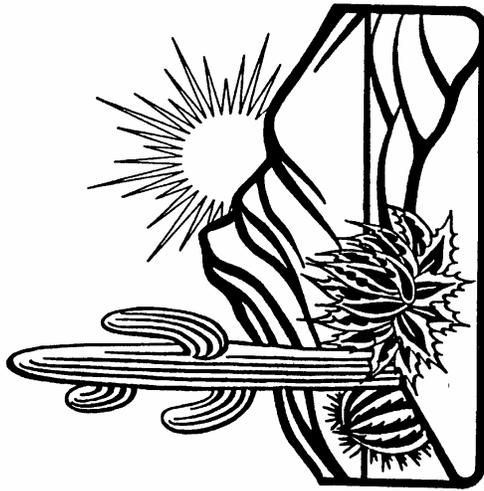
Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via e-mail to: sgvcss@adelphia.net or via post to: Paul Maker, 1245 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078-4816. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**. Material in the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society **COMMUNIQUE** may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided proper credit is given to the SGVCSS and the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material be sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization or publication without the permission of the publisher is prohibited.

11th Annual Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

Saturday and Sunday, October 9th & 10th, 2004 from 9 to 5 each day

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden.
301 N. Baldwin Avenue. Arcadia, CA

Featuring winter growing succulents throughout the world!



Presented by The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

We are expecting one thousand show specimens to be on display and many unique and hard to find plants will be available to purchase from some of California's finest growers!

For more information please call...

Vince Basta, Show Chairman (714) 738-1422, Jim Hanna, Sales Chairman (562) 920-3046, Bill Gerlach (626) 332-8008, Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430, Woody Minnich (661) 944-2784.

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus of the Month October 2004 – *Matucana*, *Submatucana* & *Oroya*

Matucana, *Submatucana* and *Oroya* are all Peruvian Cacti, found in the Western foothills and lower mountain slopes and valleys of the Andes. These plants are not as well known as many other South American cacti, even though they have wonderful colors, spines and flowers. *Matucana* grows fairly rapidly, and *Oroya* quite a bit slower. They are not difficult plants. The general culture is similar to most other South American cacti. They need water when growing in the summer, but need to be kept dry when cold.



Matucana haynei ssp. *herzogiana* entered in the 2003 CSSA show by Charles and Joann Spotts

Submatucana is a genus separated from *Matucana* by Backberg in 1966, but not generally accepted. It rarely appears in catalogs, and almost all reference books refer the genus back to *Matucana*.

However, many plants with *Submatucana* labels are still available, and the name is still found. *Submatucana* are distinguishable from *Matucana* by their open growth, and exposed body. They have short, sparse spination, instead of the denser, long spination of *Matucana*. They also flower more frequently.

Matucana has posed taxonomic problems since its discovery. The genus *Matucana* was originally described by Britton and Rose in their book, **The Cactaceae**, published in 1922. The type species is *Matucana haynei*, a plant known since the 1840s, under several different names. The genus is named after Matucana, the town near which the plant was originally found, while the species is named after a professor of Botany from Berlin. In their original publication, Britton and Rose commented on the close resemblance of the flowers to *Borzicactus*, the size, shape, and color being the same. In 1960 Myron Kimmach moved the entire genus (along with other red, day flowering species) to *Borzicactus*. Frederick Ritter re-segregated it in 1966, with the addition of some new species, which is the way it can be found in most recently printed references, picture collections and catalogs. There may be as many as 15 or 16 species, depending on the reference. Many of the species have a number of varieties, forms and cultivars, many of which are indistinguishable. Most of the species are very variable, and there are more names than there should be.

Oroya was also described by Britton and Rose, on the same page as *Matucana*. This genus, of only two or three species, has escaped most of the taxonomic chaos of *Matucana*. The type is *Oroya peruviana*, the genus again named after a nearby town. The type was known by a different name since 1903.



Oroya peruviana entered in the 2003 CSSA show by Petra Crist

In habitat *Oroya* is a flattened globe, with only the upper surface usually visible. In cultivation the plant shows off a beautiful spiral pattern of spines, with geometric precision equal to any *Mammillaria*.



Oroya laxiareolata entered in the 2003 CSSA show by Petra Crist

Well known species include:

Matucana haynei, starts out as a globular plant. With age, it becomes a short

columnar plant. The spines are usually yellow, with brown tips, thin, long, and very dense, almost completely hiding the body. White spined and brown spined versions are also in cultivation.

Matucana polzii has small heads, reaching only one or two inches across. It offsets strongly, with even small heads covered with many pups. The spines are short and widely spaced.

Matucana weberbaueri has dense yellow spines that can entirely hide the body. It offsets slowly with age. Young plants are globular, but they become somewhat columnar with age

Submatucana (*Matucana*) *madisoniorum* is nearly or completely spineless. It generally has a green body, and clusters readily, forming a clump of 4 inch wrinkled ball like plants.

Oroya peruviana is a flattened (depressed) globe that grows slowly to six to 10 inches across. It is strongly geometric with short stiff spines. The flowers are pink and yellow.

Oroya borchersii is similar, but with yellow spines, and yellow-green flowers,

References:

Britton and Rose, **The Cactaceae**
 Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**
 Preston-Mafham, Cacti, **The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich September 2004

Photos Tim Nomer

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month October 2004 - *Portulacaceae*

The *Portulacaceae* family includes some well known succulents, some rarely seen (at least in California) members, a few members more often seen in food stores, and a host of succulent weedy green things, most fortunately not in cultivation.

Anacampseros is a genus of winter growing small succulents, often found in the presence of mesembs and *crassulas*. Almost all the members are from South Africa and Namibia. Many of the species have caudices. Some are quite weedy, and some are extremely colorful, with easily grown, inexpensive variegated cultivars making these a great beginners plant.



Avonia cf. papyracea

Avonia is another African genus of small succulents, closely related to *Anacampseros*. The members are again mostly winter growing. Shown above is a form of *Avonia*, that resembles bird droppings, particularly when small. There are many nearly indistinguishable species, and as with *Anacampseros*, some great caudiciforms.

Ceraria, a very small genus has the best species of the entire family. Located entirely

in South Africa, all of the members are well worth growing. In particular, *Ceraria pygmaea*, a small caudiciform, with dense leaves growing just off the caudex, should be in everyone's collection. It will rot if over watered, or exposed to cold temperatures while wet. *Ceraria fruticulosa* is a long stemmed species, with many branches, making a small shrub. It is easily propagated from cuttings, and very tolerant of cold weathers. *Ceraria namaquensis* is a wonderful shrub, with a few branches, and many small leaves. It is a natural bonsai, and relatively easy to grow, but very slow. It does not propagate well from cuttings.



Ceraria namaquensis

Lewisia is a genus of mostly mountain growing plants that often resemble sedum.

Most of the species have small caudices. Almost all are intolerant of the heat of Southern California summers, particularly the warm nights. These are all beautiful plants, rarely seen in Southern California.

Portulaca is a world wide genus, although mostly found in the tropics. Although widespread, most of the species are low growing sprawlers, and not many are in cultivation. Of those that are, most are not grown as succulents. This genus has some hidden treasures including good caudiciforms, just waiting for a the right collector to discover and popularize.

Portulacaria is a genus from Mozambique, looking much like one of the shrubby crassulas. There are only two species, and only one, *Portulacaria afra* is commonly seen. It is extremely easy to grow. There are several variegated forms in cultivation, all more popular than the normal species. They are popular hedge material in South Africa, and have been used in a similar way in Southern California. They are very easy to grow from cuttings. Cuttings are simply stuck into the soil, with rooting taking place within a few weeks. *Portulacaria afra* has been used to produce succulent bonsai, sometimes with spectacular results.

Talinella is a small genus confined to Madagascar. Shown at right is *Talinella pachypoda*, from the eastern deciduous forests of Eastern Madagascar.



Talinella pachypoda

Talinum is a wide spread genus, with members in Africa and the Americas. Many of the members have caudexes. It is not grown as widely as it should, largely due to the behavior of one member, *Talinum paniculatum*, which is a noxious weed, self fertile and seeding itself into every available pot. Unlike many weeds, this in itself is a beautiful species, with great flowers.

Tom Glavich August 2004